



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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September, 2013

No. 1

General Meeting, September 9th 7:30 PM Western Foundation

Our general meeting, normally held on the first Monday of the month, will be held this month on the second Monday, September 9th, due to the Labor Day holiday.

The program for this first meeting of our 2013 – 2014 season will, as in previous years, be a “**Show and Tell**” program. This is the evening when we can gather once again after our long summer break and renew our old friendships and hopefully make new ones as well.

All members are encouraged to bring photos, movies, slides or anything they would like to share to the meeting. **Chrystal Klabunde**, our programs chair, will coordinate the presentations and will set up the necessary computer and projector to show the pictures.

Be sure to call **Chrystal** at **805-522-8023** well in advance of the meeting to get information on presentation media formats and presentation times available.

It’s been a long summer break and at last we have an opportunity to share our experiences over the past few months as well as our birding plans for the upcoming season. Please try to attend this first meeting of the season. You’ll surely be missed if you don’t!

Tom Halpin Grant Program by Dee Lyon

The biggest problem that our birds face is loss of habitat. Join Conejo Valley Audubon in restoring habitat this fall. Change your yard to California Native Plants and save water, energy and money. CVAS is offering a \$500 grant, in the memory of Tom Halpin, to help make the big change. We have experts who will make plant lists and plans and help you shop for plants. We will help you plant them and make your garden look good.

Just write to us describing why you would like to change your yard to a wildlife habitat. The recipient must remove at least 500 sq. feet of lawn and be the owner of the property (or have the owner’s consent). The property must be located in the Conejo Valley, Simi Valley or Camarillo. Must be ready to plant in Oct-Nov.

The winner must allow CVAS to post their name along with before and after photos of the makeover on its website and in publications and videos describing the makeover. The winner must also sign the CVAS waiver of liability. All applications for the Grant must be received by Sept. 30, 2013.

We will help everyone who contacts us to change over their yard with lists and selection of plants, plans, planting and advice. Just give us your name, address and email. Contact us at <http://conejovalleyaudubon.org> to get on the list, or call Dee Lyon at 805-499-2165 for more info.

(continued on page 3)

CALENDAR

August

31 8:00 am Field Trip: Santa Clara River Estuary

September

5 Field Trip: Hopper Mountain NWR
7 8:00 am Field Trip: Saticoy Ponds
9 5:15 pm Pre-meeting Dinner: Ottavio’s
9 7:30 pm General Meeting Western Foundation
14 7:30 am Field Trip: Laguna Tams and Arnold Rd
15 5:30 am Field Trip: Piute Ponds
21 8:00 am Field Trip: Hill Canyon
29 8:00 am Field Trip: Ojai Meadows

Pre meeting Dinner

Ottavio’s in Camarillo at 5:15 pm

Call **Nobuko McClure**

For Reservations **(805) 482-0411**

Reservation Deadline: 9:00 am

Day of General Meeting

CVAS Events

CVAS assumes no liability for accidents or injuries at any CVAS event.

Board Meeting Notice

Contact Gary Evans at 805-231-5692 for info regarding September 16th board meeting at Ron's.

Field Trips

The times specified are departure times – **be sure to arrive 15 min earlier.** Try to carpool whenever possible and don't forget to offer the driver gas money! **RAIN CANCELS!**

Saturday August 31 8:00 am Santa Clara River Estuary

Kick off our first trip of the 2013-2014 season at the Santa Clara River Estuary (SCRE). SCRE produces some of the most diverse observations of ducks, sandpipers, terns, gulls, plovers, and other shorebirds in the county. We'll meet at Surfer's Knoll at 8 am and walk down to the estuary after peeking over the fence into the Ventura Settling Ponds. The estuary should be a great place to see Elegant, Forster's and Least Terns, Brown Pelicans, Western and Ring-billed Gulls, Ruddy Ducks, Avocets and Western & Least Sandpipers. If time permits, we will also bird the Ventura Settling Ponds after returning to the harbor area, and we can also explore the jetties for rocky shorebirds. Directions: From the 101 freeway, exit Seaward and proceed south to Harbor. Turn left and continue to Spinnaker, turning right to enter the harbor area. Drive past the Surfer's Knoll parking area on the left and make a U-turn to double back and enter the parking lot. Meet at 8:00. Scopes helpful. Trip leader is Matthew Page, [\(805\) 990-6534](tel:8059906534)

Thursday, September 5 Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge

The California Condor is one of the rarest birds in the world with less than 500 individuals remaining today. Lead poisoning, poaching and habitat loss have drastically reduced their numbers, and in 1987 a captive breeding program was initiated to attempt a recovery of this species, the largest bird in North America. One of the key locations aiding the condors' recovery is the Hopper Mountain NWR. Therefore, CVAS and Friends of California Condors Wild and Free are proud to offer a tour of Hopper

Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is located about 15 miles northeast of Fillmore via oil field roads and is closed to the public except by special arrangement. This trip is led by Friends of California Condors Wild and Free tour guide Vince Gerwe. Vince is a longtime volunteer with the Recovery Program, past-president of the Friends group and an eloquent spokesman for the Condors. The number of participants and vehicles is limited. Preference is given to those with high-clearance vehicles. You must pre-register with Carol Langford at berry50@yahoo.com or [360-742-6059](tel:3607426059). Trip meeting time and location will be given upon registration.

Saturday September 7 8:00 am Saticoy Ponds

We should see a variety of migrating passerines and shorebirds with warblers, buntings, Bobolink, and Baird's Sandpiper being target birds. Bring scopes and meet outside the gate. Please be prompt as we need to enter together. Directions: The ponds are located on the northeast side of Hwy 118/Los Angeles Ave. From Ventura take Wells Rd. which turns into Los Angeles Ave./Hwy 118 and cross over the Santa Clara River Bridge. The entrance to the ponds will be on your left just after the Vineyard Ave. intersection. Trip leader is Eric Waian, [\(805\) 630-0100](tel:8056300100).

Saturday September 14 7:30 am Laguna Tams and Arnold Road

Meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am. We will scour the tams along Laguna Road for migrating warblers, vireos, and sparrows. The Laguna Tams have historically produced some of the most interesting migrants in the county. Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, Black-throated Gray, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers are likely. Hopefuls include American Redstart, Blackpoll Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and more. After birding the tamarisk stands, we will spend some time at Arnold Road, looking for plovers and shorebirds in the sod fields. Bring a scope if you can, and a lunch if you wish to spend more than the morning with us. Leader is Dee Lyon, [\(805\) 499-2165](tel:8054992165).

(field trips continued on page 3)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Please email Dee Lyon to let her know you are willing to help plant Native Habitats in November/December. It turns out this does not take long when everything is set up ahead. People need help in Camarillo, Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley for the Tom Halpin grant program.

Conservation Column

By Dee Lyon

Converting Yards to Native Habitat and the Health of Birds

Many of the Conservation Articles that I write have to do with peripheral issues rather than with birds. This is because everything is so intertwined that the health of our birds is tied to insects, trees, native plants, water, habitat and overpopulation issues.

Cattle are taking up too many of our resources.

If we look at the long view, everything will work out, but it may mean a very different world than the one we love. It seems that biodiversity is the key to keeping all the wonderful species that we are used to seeing. Mankind introduces so many variables, from Argentine Ants to Pampas Grass. They mess with the way things were 300 years ago in Southern California.

Look around your yard and your neighborhood. How many of those plants lived in Southern California 300 years ago? It's difficult to find a dozen. What do you think our birds eat? They need more than our feeders. Many of them eat insects, and native insects prefer native plants that they co-evolved with. The loss of native plants and insects is part of what is known as habitat loss. You can help our birds by rethinking and changing your yard. Encourage your neighbors and Homeowner's Association to plant native plants. Every plant helps. November is the best month to plant, so take a look at <http://laspilitas.com>. There are step by step instructions there.

See what plants look like in flower or when they are dormant. See what kind of conditions they need. Order them or go over to Matilija Nursery or Theodore Payne Foundation or Conejo Valley Botanic Garden and buy a few. If you can dig a hole you can change your yard. There are many plants that stay green all year. Let's all commit to planting a plant for our birds.

**Sunday September 15 5:30 am
Piute Ponds**

In the desert near Lancaster, the Piute Ponds are an oasis to migrating shorebirds, passerines, and waterfowl. We hope to find Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers, Common Tern, Western and Least Sandpipers, ducks, grebes and phalaropes. Trip is limited to 10 participants, so call to register for this trip in advance, Matthew Page [\(805\) 990-6534](tel:8059906534). Bring scopes, a lunch and water. As time permits, we may also visit the Lancaster Sewage Ponds or Apollo Park. For carpooling, meet at the Stearns Avenue Park and Ride in Simi Valley at 5:30 am. From the 118, exit Stearns and proceed to the Park and Ride lot. If coming from the west, you'll need to exit, turn left and make a U-turn to enter the lot. From the east, exit, turn left, and then turn right into the lot. Leader is Matthew Page [\(805\) 990-6534](tel:8059906534).

**Saturday September 21 8 am
Hill Canyon**

Hill Canyon / Santa Rosa Park is at the north edge of Thousand Oaks, off of Santa Rosa Road. This park features a trail that follows Conejo Creek into the canyon, downstream of the water treatment plant. We'll scour the cottonwoods and eucalyptus for Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeak, and others, as well as explore the park for Cactus and Canyon Wrens, White-crowned Sparrows, towhees and woodpeckers. Meet at the park, 10241 Hill Canyon Road. Bring binoculars and water. Leader is Jean Hulberg [\(805\) 491-2666](tel:8054912666).

**Sunday September 29 8:00 am
Ojai Meadows**

Ojai Meadows is a jewel of woodland, meadow & marsh that is continuously being restored. Our trip will be led by Jesse Grantham, who frequently birds this location and is intimately familiar with local species and where to find them. We expect to see Bluebirds, Kingbirds, Phoebes, Meadowlarks, marsh birds and birds native to the local oak woodlands. Recent years have seen rarities such as Bobolinks, Eastern Phoebe and more. Directions: Meet at the Las Posas Park and ride to carpool to the preserve at 7 am, or meet us at the preserve in Ojai at 8 am.

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

September, 2013



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
President			
Vice Pres			
Secretary	Gary Evans	805-231-5692	GaryE
Treasurer	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
Programs	Chrystal Klabunde	805-522-8023	chrystal
Conservation	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
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Field trips	Matthew Page	805-990-6534	Fieldtrips
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Photographer	Don Klabunde	805-522-8023	photographer
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Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to staff officer positions currently open on the CVAS Board. Both the President and Vice President positions need to be filled in addition to the Special Events coordinator. We encourage you to consider volunteering.

Regular meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted. **Everyone is welcome.** Take Pleasant Valley Road or Lewis Road to where they cross south of the 101 Freeway. Go west to the second street, Calle San Pablo. Turn right. The Foundation is the fifth building on the left.

The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 to promote the study and conservation of birds and other vertebrates. The organization makes contributions in the areas of natural history collections, original research, and conservation.

The *Roadrunner* is published monthly except July and August by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. It is sent to paid CVAS members only. Members are invited to submit articles, announcements, letters, photos and drawings for publication consideration. Copy deadline is the 5th of the month. Send items to Gary Evans, 29 Sabra Ave., Oak Park, CA 91377, or by E-mail: GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION **C3ZC230Z**

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students), payable to **National Audubon Society**, for an introductory membership.

Mail it to: National Audubon Society, P. O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Renewing memberships should be sent to National Audubon with the renewal form and envelope you receive.

For questions regarding national membership status call: National Audubon Customer Service 1-800-274-4201

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Conejo Valley Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 for a family membership.

Additional Gift: _____\$25.00 _____\$50.00 _____\$75.00 _____\$100.00 \$_____Other

Membership \$_____ Donation \$_____ Total (check payable to CVAS) \$_____

Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359 ← **Check box to receive newsletter by mail.**
Otherwise newsletter will come by email.

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____